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File Code: 2510

Date: January 6, 2021

Dear Interested Party,

I am pleased to provide you with and invite your comments on the environmental assessment for the Robbers Creek Watershed Restoration Project. The Almanor Ranger District of the Lassen National Forest has prepared this environmental assessment to present environmental consequences of the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives. This letter begins a 30-day comment period which is intended to provide those interested or affected by this project an opportunity to share concerns prior to a decision by the Responsible Official. An electronic version of the EA document and maps can be found at the Lassen National Forest website: https://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/lassen/landmanagement/projects

The Robbers Creek Project is located entirely within the Swain Management Area on the Almanor Ranger District. The project encompasses approximately 10 miles of Robbers Creek, an ephemeral stream within the Upper North Fork Feather River Watershed. The southern extent of the project boundary is located approximately 2.5 miles North of Westwood, CA on Hwy A-21 and extends north to Barnes Flat. The project is primarily within Lassen County with a smaller portion within Plumas County. A map showing the location of the project and the proposed treatment areas is enclosed. The project area would encompass all or portions of T30N, R8E, Sections 7, 9, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 26, 27, 34, and 35; T29N, R8E, Sections 1, 2, 12, and 13; and T29N, R9E, Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, and 20.

Treatments are proposed on approximately 4746 acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands. Proposed treatment activities include a combination of mechanical thinning, hand thinning/piling, pile burning, mastication, grapple piling, chipping of small diameter trees, underburning, road maintenance and decommissioning of unauthorized non-system roads.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of opportunity to comment notice in the *Chester Progressive*, the newspaper of record. The publication date, January 6, 2021, in the newspaper of record, is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source (36 CFR 218.25(a)(1)(iv)). Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218.25(a), including specific written comments as defined in 218.2 regarding the proposed project, along with supporting reasons (218.25 (a)(30(iii)). The commenter is responsible to provide the literature cited in their comment, as well as the full citation and explanation of how each piece of literature cited applies to the environmental analysis. Each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding this project must either sign the comments or





verify upon request (218.24(b)(8)). All written comments received by the responsible official become a matter of public record (218.35(b)(2)). A decision regarding this proposal is expected in **February of 2021.** Thank you for your interest and participation in the environmental analysis process.

Hardcopy comments may be submitted via mail to:

Russell Nickerson, District Ranger c/o Coye Burnett, Wildlife Biologist Almanor Ranger District 900 E. Hwy 36 Chester, CA 96020

Electronic comments may be submitted through the project specific electronic comment form at: comments-pacificsouthwest-lassen-almanor@fs.fed.us with the subject line of Robbers Creek Project. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), portable document format (pdf), or MS Word (.doc or .docx).

For more information on the project, please contact Coye Burnett, Wildlife Biologist, by email: coye.burnett@usda.gov

I appreciate your interest in public lands.

Sincerely,

DEB BUMPUS Forest Supervisor

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cc: Russell Nickerson, Coye Burnett